

New angle taken on mower safety

Innovation by council staff develops idea to make mowing difficult embankments safer and easier

A LITTLE bit of ingenuity means that mowing drain embankments is now easier and, most importantly, safer for council staff.

What started out as an idea from council staff is now an innovative flail mower that is being used.

The aim was to find suitable equipment to be attached to the front of council's rubber track loader that would allow for safe mowing operations in drain embankments, without the machine having to work on unsafe angles.

"We looked around for different things but couldn't buy anything straight off the shelf," council plant operator Tony Simpson said.

"I came up with the idea of modifying one off the back of a tractor," he said.

Council staff worked on the idea and partnered with Kynaston Engineering, which undertook the design and engineering of the attachment.

"This particular job was a first for us," said Robbie Young,

of Kynaston Engineering.

"It was well within our capabilities and it was good to produce something unique and improve safety for the council," he said.

"It was a concept from the operator from council and it was good to see council took on some feedback from their staff and brought the idea to us to improve safety and the speed in which they can do their more complex mowing."

Council workshop supervisor



With the modified flail mower are (from left) council's Tony Borics and Tony Simpson, Darren Deguara, of DMD Hydraulics, Robbie Young, of Kynaston Engineering, and council's Ron Ahmat.

Tony Boric's technical input was integral to the outcome.

DMD Hydraulics also did the hydraulics work on the project.

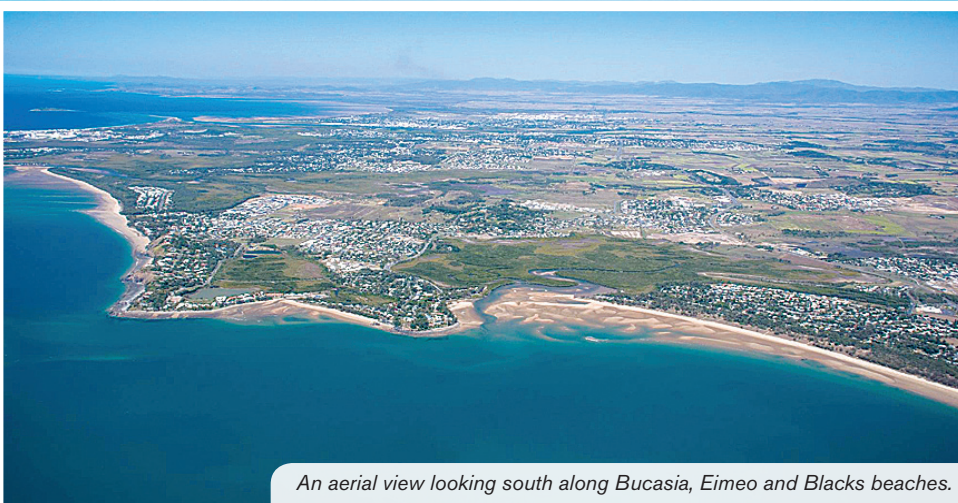
The total cost of the

modifications for the flail mower was \$28,000.

Infrastructure and Services Committee chair Cr Karen May said the modified piece of mowing equipment was an excellent outcome.

"We have talented and innovative staff who are always striving to come up with ideas on how to improve safety and improve efficiency," she said. "This is a perfect example."

>> The modified flail mower is being nominated for IPWEA innovation and Safety Week awards. To watch a video of it in action go to mackay.qld.gov.au/mower



An aerial view looking south along Bucasia, Eimeo and Blacks beaches.

Coastal plans to be prepared

COUNCIL will undertake Local Coastal Plans for Midge Point and Slade Point/Lamberts beaches this financial year.

Council is still awaiting finalisation of NDRRA funding for cyclone repairs on these beaches and is also undertaking some emergent works in the meantime.

But work will also start on coastal plans for these areas, which will include community consultation.

It is envisaged work will start on the Midge Point plan this month and Slade Point/Lamberts Beach in February next year.

Each coastal plan is expected to take about three months to complete.

>> Coastal plans for other beaches at mackay.qld.gov.au



Machines operating

TWO new paid parking machines have been installed in two City Centre car parks.

The coin-and-credit-card-operated machines can be used in the Mid-City Carpark, on the corner of Gordon and Gregory streets, and the Cinema Carpark, on the corner of Gordon and Wood streets.

They work in coordination with council's new PayStay system, giving motorists the option of using an app on their mobile phone to pay for parking or using coins or a credit card at the machines.

Community Engagement

>> More information at mackay.qld.gov.au/paystay

Committee chair Cr Fran Mann said the PayStay system was implemented when outdated machines were removed after the old 2G mobile network shut down.

But she said council had listened to feedback from motorists who indicated they still wanted the option of paying via machine.

"The two new machines are operational and work in conjunction with PayStay."

Meanwhile, the under-utilised City South Carpark, opposite Sydney Street Markets, is no longer a council carpark, with council ending its lease.

Due to their popularity in 2015, MZAZA is back as the headline act at this weekend's Global Grooves in Queens Park.



Your guide to global grooves

THIS year's Global Grooves festival plans to take the notion of a world tour in a single day a step further.

Community Engagement Committee chair Cr Fran Mann said that organisers really wanted to capture the feeling of going on holidays and immersing yourself in different cultures.

She said to experience an overseas destination properly there were usually some key ingredients, and all those ingredients were covered at Global Grooves.

Of course, there's the food – you must try the authentic national dishes," Cr Mann said.

Then there's the music, dance and ceremonies – experiencing and witnessing these traditions that are passed down through generations is a real privilege," she said.

"This year Global Grooves is completing the experience with festival-goers able to visit the workshop teepee to learn a new skill from different cultural groups. Not only that, but what's an overseas holiday without colourful photos?"

"This year, for the first time, you can meet and have your photo taken with the

performers in their traditional dress in our Global Grooves Photo Hub."

That means you have no less than 15 different music and dance acts from around the world to dance along to and have your photo taken with. You can fill your travel album without leaving Mackay.

Known for its atmosphere that fills your senses – from the aromas and tastes of mouth-watering cultural cuisine, to the sounds and sights of everything from Scottish bagpipes to African drums and Indian rhythms – Global Grooves is the

Mackay region's largest multicultural event.

Held every year in Queens Park, this year's event will be from 3pm to 9pm on Saturday, October 21, and will be held on the main oval.

Cr Mann said the 3pm start would make the most of the cool of the afternoon.

"This is a free event, jam-packed with food, entertainment and things to do and learn. I would encourage everyone to come along and make sure you stay for the fireworks finale at 9pm," she said.



Savour flavours of world

Bring your appetite along with your dancing shoes because there will be food from around the world at this year's Global Grooves.

No less than 27 food vendors will have festival-goers floating on a cloud of scrumptious aromas. The flavours on offer will blow your mind.

From Italian to Indian, Fijian to Filipino, Chinese to Maltese, Pacific Island cuisine to Kiwi treats, Japanese, Thai and everything in between – there will be something to satisfy everyone's tastes.

>> For more information, make sure you follow Mackay Festival on Facebook, or go online at themecc.com.au/festivals/global_grooves

main stage

3.00pm	Opening of Global Grooves 2017
3.10pm	Mackay Filipino Association – Dance
3.25pm	Mackay Aboriginal Dance Group
3.45pm	The Parter Girls – Hula Dance
3.55pm	Elena's Fitness Fusion
4.00pm	Reespek Vanuatu – Song and dance
4.30pm	Embellish Bellydance Mackay
4.35pm	Thai Aussie Community – Dance
5.05pm	Mackay & District Pipe Band
5.15pm	Viva
5.55pm	Mackay Malayali Group
6.25pm	Nepalese Australian Association of Mackay Region – Dance
6.35pm	Mackay Host Lions Pacifica Island Community – Song and dance
7.05pm	Chinese Community – Dance
7.10pm	Pacific Moves
7.15pm	Latin Madness Mackay & Airlie Beach
7.30pm	Mackay Fijian Association
8.00pm	Mackay Indians - Dance
8.10pm	Mzaza
9.00pm	Fireworks Display

teepee tent

All day workshops	Origami workshop, mask making and Indigenous art
3pm - 6pm	Face painting
3.30pm - 4pm	African Djembe Drumming
5pm - 5.30pm	Latin Dancing
6pm - 6.20pm	Didge, Scratch & Hatch
7pm - 7.30pm	African Djembe Drumming

Festive grants

COUNCIL is encouraging groups to get into the festive spirit with its annual Christmas Grants. There is \$10,000 up for grabs, with grants of up to \$750 available to community groups and not-for-profits to help them fire up the barbecues, string some decorations and really get into the festive spirit. Applications should be submitted no later than Sunday, October 29. For further information, visit mackay.smartygrants.com.au/Christmas2017

Fringe program

THE Festival of Arts is rolling out a new initiative – the 2018 Fringe Events Program. Any event in the region happening in July can register. By becoming a Fringe Event, the event benefits by being included in Festival promotions and the official program. This will bring Mackay to life for the entire month – promoting small and large events in all types of venues that may not normally have this type of soapbox to shout from. For more details call 4961 9777.

Community day

A FASHION show, Zumba, Tai Chi, rock painting and a knitting circle will be part of a family fun day this Friday aimed at raising awareness around poverty. Connecting Communities Mackay, with the support of council, are bringing together an assortment of groups and organisations for the fun day on the Civic Precinct lawns. The focus will be family-friendly fun, but being held at the end of Anti-Poverty Week, there is a real opportunity to have conversations around issues that impact local residents. The event, which runs from 9am to noon, is free and will include a free sausage sizzle, children's activities, information stalls and more.

Watch the flow

AN advertising marketing campaign is encouraging Mackay region residents to carefully monitor when they water. Before this week's wet weather, usage continued to be high in some sections of the council area. Mackay Water is closely monitoring usage and weather patterns to determine whether any further restrictions will be required.